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ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH IRELAND

Ireland has agreed to increase the line of credit it has made available for exports to Iraq. The decision to extend a further 10 million punts (£10.1 million) in export credit was taken at the joint economic commission's recent meeting. This will increase to 25 million punts (£24.4 million) the overall amount of export credit insurance cover available to Irish exporters trading with Iraq.

Orders worth 15 million punts (£15.25 million) for Irish companies were signed in anticipation of this latest agreement at the Baghdad international trade fair recently.

The finance is in the form of a roll-over credit, with no fixed term. Once repayment has been made, the money becomes available for another company. Dublin agreed to extend the initial 15 million punts in special export credit about one year ago.

Ireland's main exports to Iraq are food and dairy products, telecommunications, electrical equipment, tobacco, clothing and perfume. During the commission's meetings, the Iraqi delegation also discussed training requirements in agriculture, medicine, engineering, and science and technology.

TRADE WITH INDONESIA

Indonesia is to buy spices and dates following the recent trade and economic agreement signed in Jakarta on 1 October. Iraq will import tea, palm oil, coffee, plywood and textiles.

CONTRACTS FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AWARDED

A contract for the Hit/Kubaisa water supply scheme has gone to a local firm. Work will involve building a 22,000-cubic-metre-a-day treatment plant and supplying about 26 kilometres of pipes. About 15,000 cubic metres of the treated water will be piped to Hit. Completion is in 30 months. Client is the State Organisation for Water & Sewerage.

Besides, a ID 6.25 million (£20.2 million) contract for the Baiji water supply scheme has gone to a Jordanian company, Sadik Inam. A 15 million-gallon-a-day treatment plant - enough to meet the needs of Baiji and Habi-biya subdistrict until 2000 - is to be built in 36 months. Client is the State Organisation for Water & Sewerage (SOWS).